Or biterly to ſpeake in your reproofe,
*B*eſt fitteth my degree or your condition:
Your loue deſerues my thankes, but my deſert
Vnmeritable ſhunnes your high requeſt,
Firſt if all obſtacles were cut away,
And that my path were euen to the Crowne,
*A*s my right reuenew and due by birth,
Yet ſo much is my pouertie of ſpirit,
So mightie and ſo many my defects,
As I had rather hide me from my greatneſſe,
Being a Barke to brooke no mightie ſea,
Then in my greatneſſe couet to be hid,
And in the vapour of my glory ſmothered:
But God be thanked theres no need for me,
*A*nd much I neede to helpe you if need were,
The royall tree hath left vs royall fruite,
Which mellowed by the ſtealing houres of time,
Will well become the ſeate of maieſtie;
And make no doubt vs happie by his raigne,
On him I lay, what you would lay on me:
The right and fortune of his happie ſtarres,
Which God defend that I ſhould wring from him.
*Buc.* My Lord, this argues conſcience in your grace,
But the reſpects thereof are nice and triuiall,
All circumſtances well conſidered.
You ſay that *Edward* is your brothers ſonne,
So ſay we too, but not by *Edwards* wife:
For firſt he was contracted to Lady *Lucy*,
Your mother liues, a witneſſe to that vow,
And afterwards by ſubſtitute betrothed
To *Bona*, ſiſter to the King of *France*,
Theſe both put by a poore petitioner,
A care-crazd mother of many children,
A beauty-waining and diſtreſſed widdowe,
Euen in the afternoone of her beſt dayes,
Made priſe and purchaſe of his luſtfull eye,
Seduce the pitch and height of all his thoughts,
To baſe declenſion and loathed bigamie,
By her in this vnlawfull bed he got,

This



This *Edward*, whome our manners
More bitterly could expoſtulate,
Saue that for reuerence to ſome aliu
I giue a ſparing limit to my tongue
Then good my Lord, take to your
This proffered benefit of dignitie?
If not to bleſſe vs and the land witha
Yet to draw out your royall ſtocke,
From the corruption of a buſing ti
Vnto a lineall true deriued courſe.
*Mai.* Do good my Lord, your cit
*Cat.* O make them ioyfull, grant t
*Glo.* *A*las, why would you heape
I am vnfit for ſtate and dignitie:
I doe beſeech you take it not amiſſe
I cannot, nor I will not yeeld to you
*Buc.* If you refuſe it as in loue and
Loth to depoſe the childe your bro
*A*ſwell we know your tenderneſſe o
*A*nd gentle kind effeminate remorſ
Which we haue noted in you to yo
*A*nd egally indeed to all eſtates,
Yet whether you except our ſute or
Your brothers ſonne ſhall neuer rai
But we will plant ſome other in the t
To the diſgrace and downefall of y
*A*nd in this reſolution here we leaue
Come Citizens, zounds, Ile intreat
*Glo.* O do not ſweare my Lord of
*Cat.* Call them againe, my Lord
*Ano.* Do, good my Lord, leaſt al
*Glo.* Would you enforce me to a w
Well, call them againe, I am not ma
But penetrable to your kind intreat
*A*lbeit againſt my conſcience and n
Coſen of *Buckingham*, and you ſage
Since you will buckle fortune on m
To beare the burthen whether I wil
I muſt haue patience to endure the



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22319) LONDON, 1622 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.51)